

# NAACP LOUISIANA STATE CONFERENCE

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October 24, 2006

Chairman Kevin Martin  
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate  
Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Robert McDowell  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Federal Communications Commissions  
The Portals  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Support BellSouth / AT & T Merger, WC Docket No. 06-74

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing this letter as President of the NAACP Louisiana State Conference to request your speedy approval of the merger of AT&T and BellSouth. This merger combines two of America's most respected companies, with complementary strengths and a heritage of philanthropic and volunteer support to the African-American community.

African-American individuals and businesses are an important and fast growing segment of Louisiana's economy. We are increasingly dependent upon advanced broadband technologies to grow our businesses, educate our children and enhance the quality of our lives despite the destruction caused by hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

To ensure greater availability of broadband services to the African-American community, the NAACP Louisiana State Conference strongly encourages prompt approval of the merger of BellSouth and AT&T. The merger promises to bring about affordable and universal broadband access for all of our citizens, including those in low income and rural areas who need it the most. This will greatly enrich the lives and economic prosperity of all of our citizens.

We urge the Commission to quickly approve the merger of AT&T and BellSouth so that African-American businesses and consumers can soon benefit from the promise of affordable and widely available broadband technology.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ernest L. Johnson

Cc: Marlene Dortch, Commission Secretary